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③ Acoustic diaphragm and method of manufacturing the same.

⑦ An acoustic diaphragm is made of a crystalline diamond film formed on at least one side of a ceramic diaphragm base member formed in the shape of diaphragm, the crystalline diamond film being formed by thermal-plasma emitting a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen onto the base member.

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Acoustic Diaphragm and Method of Manufacturing the Same

Background of the InventionField of the Invention

The present invention relates to an acoustic diaphragm and a method of manufacturing the same.

Description of Related Art

Various materials of acoustic diaphragms and methods of processing the surface of diaphragm base member have been proposed heretofore, particularly for loudspeakers for high and middle frequency use. Among such methods, as a method of forming a diamond film with less amorphism on the surface of a diaphragm base member, there are known a thermal filament method, electron impact CVD (EACVD) method, a microwave CVD (MCVD) method, a plasma jet method, a DC plasma method and the like.

There is also known a method of forming a diaphragm made of only a diamond film as disclosed Japanese Patent Laid-Open Gazette No. 61-128700. According to this method, a diamond film is deposited on a monocrystal silicon formed in the shape of diaphragm by an MCVD method using a 2.45 GHz microwave while emitting a plasma of a mixture gas composed of methane CF_4 and hydrogen H_2 , and thereafter the monocrystal silicon is dissolved to obtain a diamond diaphragm.

Conventional acoustic diaphragms and manufacturing methods are associated with the following problems.

First, with the thermal filament and EACVD methods, the area of a deposited film is small, the distance to a diaphragm base material on which a film is deposited is short, and the distribution of film thickness is poor. Also as to the MCVD method, it is known that the deposition area is determined by the dimension of a silica glass tube reacting with a waveguide and the dimension of a plasma. With any one of the above conventional methods, the diameter of a deposition area is only 3 to 10 cm so that the manufacturing capability is limited about one to five diaphragms having a diameter of one inch. Further, the film deposition thickness per hour is 1 to 10 microns/cm², resulting in high cost and poor mass productivity.

Second, since the above conventional methods form a diamond film through heating a filament, DC discharge, high frequency microwave discharge, a diaphragm base material is heated up to about

1000 degrees centigrade, resulting in deformation or damage of the base material. Thus, it is necessary to realize improved heat dissipation.

Third, with the method of manufacturing a diaphragm made of only a diamond film as disclosed in the above-described Japanese Patent Laid-Open Gazette No. 61-128700, it is difficult to form a monocrystal silicon having a desired shape. The diameter of a deposited area is only 3 to 10 cm. In addition, since the deposition film thickness per hour is equal to or smaller than 1 micron/cm², it takes several tens hours to manufacture a diaphragm having a diamond film thickness of several tens microns, leaving a problem of mass productivity.

Summary of the Invention

It is therefore a first object of the present invention to provide an acoustic diaphragm having a diamond film formed on the surface of a diaphragm base member, wherein a uniform diamond film thickness is ensured even for large diameter diaphragms.

It is a second object of the present invention to provide a method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm, wherein a diamond film can be formed reliably and in short time on the surface of a diaphragm base member, with excellent mass productivity and no limit of dimension of a diaphragm.

It is a third object of the present invention to provide a method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm made of only a diamond film, capable of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm in short time, with excellent mass productivity and no limit of dimension of a diaphragm.

The above objects of the present invention can be achieved by providing an acoustic diaphragm comprising a crystalline diamond film formed on at least one side of a ceramic diaphragm base member formed in the shape of diaphragm, the crystalline diamond film being formed by emitting a thermal plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen.

The diaphragm base member may be a carbide-based ceramic including silicon carbide, an oxide-based ceramic including alumina and zirconia, or a nitride-based ceramic including titanium nitride and boron nitride.

The diaphragm base material may also be metallic diaphragm base member. The metallic diaphragm base member may be made of titanium, and wherein there is formed a titanium carbide layer on the surface of the metallic diaphragm base

member by emitting a thermal plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon and hydrocarbon, and there is formed a crystalline diamond film on the titanium carbide layer by emitting a thermal plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen, whereby the acoustic diaphragm has a three-layered raw material including titanium, titanium carbide and diamond.

According to the method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm of this invention, a method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm made of only a diamond film by forming said diamond film on the surface of a metallic base member formed in the shape of diaphragm, and thereafter by dissolving said metallic base member, comprises the steps of depositing a crystalline diamond film on the metallic base member made of titanium, tantalum or molybdenum and formed in the shape of diaphragm, by emitting a thermal plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen; and dissolving the metallic base member.

Silicon or titanium carbide may be vapor deposited on the surface of the metallic base member to form thereon a diamond film, and thereafter the metallic base member is dissolved.

In a method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm by forming a diamond film on a diaphragm base member, ceramic powders are filled between the diaphragm base member and a heat radiator on which the diaphragm base member is mounted, and while cooling the diaphragm base member, a crystalline diamond film is formed on the diaphragm base member by emitting a high temperature plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen.

The ceramic powders to be filled may be ceramics made of diamond, cubic boron nitride and silicon carbide.

Another method may also be used wherein the diaphragm base member is mounted on a heat radiator having a mount portion formed in the shape corresponding to the diaphragm base member, and while water-cooling the heat radiator, a crystalline diamond film is formed on the diaphragm base member by emitting a high temperature plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen.

Diamond, cubic boron nitride and silicon carbide may be vapor deposited on the surface of the mount portion of the heat radiator to form thereon a ceramic film for further enhancing the cooling effect of the diaphragm base member.

Of various types of acoustic diaphragms according to this invention, a diaphragm having a crystalline diamond film formed on a diaphragm base member has an excellent sound velocity as described later. Further, spurious partition vibrations are reduced because of high hardness and

high rigidity specific to diamond, thus realizing a diaphragm of excellent performance.

A diaphragm formed only by a crystalline diamond film has a uniform film thickness with excellent sound velocity.

In the method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm according to the present invention, a thermal CVD method is used for supplying a great amount of mixture gas in forming a diamond film on the base member, the mixture gas being composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen. According to this method, a high temperature plasma can be generated. In addition, electrodes for DC discharge are mounted within a plasma torch so that a distance to a base member on which a film is formed is set freely. Further, a number of base materials can be processed while moving them around the plasma torch. The film deposition rate per time itself is also excellent. Therefore, a crystalline diamond film having a uniform thickness can be formed on the base member in short time without any limit of the dimension of the base material on which a film is formed.

Accordingly, a crystalline diamond diaphragm having a desired thickness may be mass produced by the method of manufacturing a diaphragm made of only a diamond film by dissolving a metallic base member having a diamond film formed thereon.

The thermal CVD method generates a high temperature plasma as described previously. Therefore, there is a possibility that a diaphragm base member may be melted or deformed considerably, or carbonization thereof may be quickened. However, this can be overcome by forming a crystalline diamond film while cooling the diaphragm base member.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The above and other objects and features of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figs. 1 to 13 show the embodiments of an acoustic diaphragm and the method of manufacturing the same according to the present invention;

Fig. 1 shows the system arrangement used with the thermal plasma CVD method;

Fig. 2 is a temperature distribution graph of a plasma jet;

Figs. 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B are cross sections of heat radiators;

Figs. 5A to 5C, 6A and 6B are cross sections of acoustic diaphragms;

Figs. 7A and 7B show base members and diamond films during the manufacturing processes for an acoustic diaphragm made of only a diamond film.

Figs. 8, 9, 10A and 10B show Raman spectral characteristics, and

Figs. 11 to 13 show the frequency characteristics of loudspeakers equipped with acoustic diaphragms

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The embodiments of an acoustic diaphragm and a method of manufacturing the same according to the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 1 to 13.

Fig. 1 shows the system arrangement used with the thermal plasma CVD method. A plasma torch (Fig. 1) for generating a thermal plasma and a chamber 2 is maintained vacuum by discharging air 5. A raw material gas 3 is supplied within the plasma torch 1. In this embodiment, a diaphragm base member 4 on which a film is formed, is shaped in a dome configuration and mounted on a heat radiator 7 within which cooling water 6 circulates. The heat radiator 7 is adapted to rotate.

The plasma torch 1 emits a plasma made of methane and hydrogen decomposed from hydrocarbon upon DC discharge between an anode electrode 8 and cathode electrode 9. A diamond film of crystalline grains is formed on the diaphragm base member by a CVD method.

With the above method it becomes possible to supply a great amount of mixture gas to the plasma torch 1 and generate a high temperature plasma. Since the electrodes for DC discharge are mounted within the plasma torch, the distance to the diaphragm 4 on which a film is formed can be set freely. A great number of diaphragms 4 can be processed while moving them around the plasma torch. Such advantages have not been realized with conventional methods. Further, according to this thermal plasma CVD method, a great amount of gas is supplied in forming a diamond film so that the deposition rate about 10 to 50 times as great as conventional can be obtained, which is suitable for mass production.

Fig. 2 is a temperature distribution graph of a plasma jet obtained by the thermal plasma CVD method. Since an arc column is squeezed by a magnetic field induced by an arc discharge current, the temperature of the plasma becomes about 10000 to 20000 degrees centigrade at the outlet of the plasma torch 1. It is necessary therefore to efficiently cool the diaphragm 4 mounted on the heat radiator 7 because it is exposed to such high

temperature.

In the experiments, the mixture rate of supplied raw material gasses (mixture gas) was:

Argon : 100%

Methane : 0.1%

Hydrogen : 7%

The other conditions were:

Vacuum degree : 20 Torr;

Diaphragm base member : silicon carbide (SiC) 40 microns vapor deposition

Dimension of base member : 2.5 cm

In the experiments, a diaphragm base member of a dome shape was mounted on a conventional support device with a flat support plane, and a thermal plasma was emitted without cooling the diaphragm base member. According to the experiment results, the surface temperature of the diaphragm rose to about 2000 to 3000 degrees centigrade, resulting in melting and considerable deformation of the diaphragm base member. In addition, carbonization was quickened due to high temperature. There was not formed a diamond film.

In consideration of the above, the heat radiator as shown in Figs. 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B is provided.

The heat radiator 7 made of copper is provided with a fixing jig 10 for fixing the hinge portion of the diaphragm base member 4. Cooling water 6 circulates through an inner water passage 11 to cool the diaphragm base member 4. In the example shown in Fig. 3A, there is formed a mount portion 12 of semi-sphere having a diameter slightly smaller than the dome diameter of the diaphragm base member 4. The diaphragm base member 4 is mounted on the mount portion 12, with ceramic powders being filled between the diaphragm base member 4 and the mount portion 12.

Upon emission of a thermal plasma while cooling the diaphragm base member by the cooling means shown in Fig. 3A, the surface temperature of the diaphragm base member was maintained about 800 to 1000 degrees centigrade.

In the example shown in Fig. 3B, the diaphragm base member 4 of a dome shape is mounted on the heat radiator having a flat mount plane, with ceramic powders 14 being filled between the mount plane and the diaphragm base member. The ceramic powders are made of powders of diamond, cubic boron nitride (CBN) and silicon carbide (SiC). It is preferable that any of these powders has a melting point in excess of 1500 degree centigrade and the thermal conductivity is equal to or greater than that of copper used as the heat radiator 7. The thermal conductivity of these materials are:

Copper: $3.85 \text{ W cm}^{-1} \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}^{-1}$

Diamond: 20.0

Cubic boron nitride: 6.0

Silicon carbide: 2.7

Grain diameter of ceramic: 0.5 to 2 microns

The cooling means shown in Fig. 3B could also maintain the surface temperature of the diaphragm base member at about 800 to 1000 degrees centigrade, similar in the case shown in Fig. 3A.

By cooling the diaphragm base member with the cooling means shown in Figs. 3A and 3B, the surface temperature of the diaphragm base member could be cooled down by one third to one fourth of that without cooling. Thus, the heat resistance at the surface of the heat radiator can be improved so that there occurs no deformation due to thermal melting of the diaphragm base member, and no quality degradation of a diamond film to be caused by gas generation.

In the example shown in Fig. 4A, a heat radiator 7 is formed with a mount portion 15 of a semi-sphere shape corresponding to the dome shape of the diaphragm base member 4. The diaphragm base member 4 is fittingly mounted on the mount portion 15 for the purpose of water-cooling. This cooling means could also maintain the surface temperature of the diaphragm base member at 800 to 1000 degrees centigrade.

In the example shown in Fig. 4B, there is formed on the surface of a mount portion 15 a ceramic film 16 of 2 to 4 microns thickness made of diamond, cubic boron nitride and silicon carbide by means of the thermal plasma CVD method. The diaphragm base member 4 is therefore mounted on the mount portion 15 with the ceramic film 16 interposed therebetween. This cooling means could also maintain the surface temperature of the diaphragm base member down at 800 to 1000 degrees centigrade.

Next, the embodiments of this invention will be described. The mixture ratio of supplied raw material gasses (mixture gas) are the same as that used for the above-described experiment, as in the following:

Argon : 100%

Methane : 0.1%

Hydrogen : 7%

The other conditions are:

(1st Embodiment)

Vacuum degree : 20 Torr

Diaphragm base member : silicon carbide (SiC) 40 microns vapor deposition

Surface temperature of base member : 800 to 1000 degrees centigrade

Dimension of base member : 2.5 cm Thickness of formed diamond film : 2 microns

The film deposition thickness per hour was 50 to 100 micron:cm² in the first embodiment.

A dome shaped diaphragm 21 obtained in the first embodiment is shown in Fig. 5A. A crystalline

diamond film 22 is formed on the diaphragm base member 4. The analysis of the diamond film 22 was conducted by Raman spectroscopy and S-ray diffraction. The results showed that the obtained diamond film had a peak at 1333 cm⁻¹ specific to diamond as shown in the Raman spectral characteristics of Fig. 8 and had a diffraction specific to diamond.

In the first embodiment, the diaphragm base member 4 may use the oxide-based or nitride-based ceramic which has a low density, high elasticity, and a sound velocity of 10000 m/s or higher. Dome shaped diaphragms manufactured by using such ceramic are shown in Figs. 5B and 5C.

The sound velocities of these dome-shaped diaphragms 21 were 10000 to 12000 m/s for that shown in Fig. 5A, 9000 to 11000 m/s for Fig. 5B, and 8000 to 10000 m/s for Fig. 5C. Therefore, loudspeakers can be realized which are capable of reproducing a high frequency signal about 1.6 to 2.4 times as high as that of a conventional loudspeaker.

Fig. 11 shows the frequency characteristics A (indicated by a solid line) of the dome shaped diaphragm shown in the first embodiment of Fig. 5A, and the frequency characteristics B (indicated by a broken line) of a dome shaped diaphragm made of only titanium. It is appreciated from the comparison therebetween that the former characteristics A is considerably improved at high frequency.

(2nd Embodiment)

Different from the first embodiment, a metallic base member was used as the diaphragm base member 4. The surface temperature of the base member was 600 to 1000 degrees centigrade, and the other conditions were the same as the first embodiment.

A dome shaped diaphragm 21 obtained in the second embodiment is shown in Fig. 6A. The analysis of a diamond film 22 was conducted in the similar manner as of the first embodiment. As seen from the Raman spectral characteristics of Fig. 9, the film had a peak at 1333 cm⁻¹ specific to diamond and a diffraction of diamond, thus the film was identified as being made of diamond.

In the second embodiment, titanium was used as the metallic diaphragm base member 4, a titanium carbide layer was formed on the surface of the metallic diaphragm base member by emitting a high temperature plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon and hydrocarbon, and a crystalline diamond film was formed on the titanium carbide layer by emitting a thermal plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydro-

gen. The obtained dome shaped diaphragm 21 had, as shown in Fig. 6B, a three-layered raw material including a titanium base member 4, titanium carbide layer 23 and diamond film 22.

The sound velocities of the dome shaped diaphragms obtained in the second embodiment were 8000 to 10000 m/s for that shown in Fig. 6A, and 9000 to 11000 m/s for Fig. 6B.

Fig. 12 shows a comparison between the frequency characteristics A of the dome shaped diaphragm in the second embodiment of Fig. 6A and the frequency characteristics B of a dome shaped diaphragm made of only titanium.

(3rd Embodiment)

Different from the first embodiment, a metallic base member 20 (Fig. 7A) made of titanium and formed in the dome shape was used having its surface formed with a crystalline diamond film. The conditions were as follows:

Vacuum degree : 100 Torr

Base member : titanium, 30 microns

Surface temperature of base member : 800 to 1000 degrees centigrade

Dimension of base member : 2.5 cm

Deposition time : 45 minutes Thickness of formed diamond film : 40 microns

A crystalline diamond film 22 formed on the metallic base member 20 had a semi-sphere crystal face and had grains of 1 to 5 microns. The Raman spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction were conducted in the similar manner as of the first embodiment. The results showed that a peak at 1333 cm^{-1} specific to diamond was obtained as shown in Fig. 10A and a diffraction of diamond, thus identifying the film as being made of diamond.

The metallic base member 20 having the diamond film 22 formed thereon was dissolved by using a solution of hydrogen fluoride and nitric acid having a mixture ratio of 1 : 1, to thus obtain the dome shaped diaphragm 21 made of only a diamond film of 40 microns thickness.

In the third embodiment, silicon Si was vapor deposited on the surface of the metallic base member 20 to form a deposited film 24 as shown in Fig. 7B. A diamond film 22 was formed on the deposited film 24. The deposited film 24 of silicon functions to prevent reaction of the diamond film with the metallic base member 20, thus improving the quality of the diamond film 22. The deposited film can be dissolved using the above-described mixture solution. The diamond film 22 thus obtained has crystalline grains of 1 to 5 microns similar to the case described previously, however, it had a crystal face in "100" orientation. The analysis of the diamond film 22 was conducted in the similar

manner as above, the Raman spectral characteristics being shown in Fig. 10B.

As shown in Fig. 7B, the metallic base member 20 and deposited film 24 were dissolved in the similar manner as above to obtain the dome shaped diaphragm 21 made of only the diamond film 22.

In the third embodiment, titanium was used as the metallic base member. However, tantalum Ta may also be used, or other substances of high melting point such as tungsten and niobium may be used. The deposited film 24 may use silicon carbide. The acoustic constants of the diamond dome shaped diaphragms in the third embodiment of Figs. 7A and 7B were a density of 3 to 3.4 g/cm^3 , a Young's modulus of $5.9\text{ to }8.2 \times 10^{11}\text{ Pa}$. The sound velocities were 13000 to 15000 m/s for that shown in Fig. 7A, and 14000 to 16000 m/s for Fig. 7B. Therefore, loudspeakers can be realized which are capable of reproducing a high frequency signal about 2.6 to 3.2 times as high as that of a conventional loudspeaker.

According to an acoustic diaphragm of this invention, excellent acoustic constants can be obtained, and the frequency characteristics at high frequency in particular can be considerably improved so that it is suitable for manufacturing loudspeakers for high and middle frequency use. Further, spurious vibrations are reduced because of high hardness and high rigidity specific to diamond, thus realizing loudspeakers of less distortion.

According to the method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm of this invention, a thermal plasma CVD method is used for supplying a great amount of mixture gas in forming a diamond film, and a plasma is emitted while cooling the diaphragm base member. Therefore, a diamond film having a desired film thickness can be formed on the diaphragm base member without melting or deforming it. Further, the film deposition thickness per hour is 10 to 50 times the conventional speed, and a great number of diaphragms of excellent characteristics and low cost can be mass produced while moving them around the plasma torch.

A diamond film having a desired thickness can be formed on the base member in short time so that a diaphragm made of only a diamond film can be mass produced by dissolving a metal base member having the diamond formed thereon. Therefore, the method of this invention is optimum in manufacturing various type of acoustic diaphragms.

Although the present invention has been fully described by way of the preferred embodiments, it is to be noted that various changes and modifica-

tions are possible which should be construed as falling in the scope and spirit of this invention as defined by the appended claims.

Claims

1. An acoustic diaphragm comprising a crystalline diamond film formed on at least one side of a ceramic diaphragm base member formed in the shape of diaphragm, said crystalline diamond film being formed by thermal-plasma emitting a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen onto the base member.

2. An acoustic diaphragm according to claim 1, wherein said ceramic diaphragm base member is a carbide-based ceramic including silicon carbide.

3. An acoustic diaphragm according to claim 1, wherein said ceramic diaphragm base member is an oxide-based ceramic including alumina and zirconia.

4. An acoustic diaphragm according to claim 1, wherein said ceramic diaphragm is a nitride-based ceramic including titanium nitride and boron nitride.

5. An acoustic diaphragm comprising a crystalline diamond film formed on at least one side of a metallic diaphragm base member formed in the shape of diaphragm, said crystalline diamond film being formed by thermal plasma emitting a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen onto the base member.

6. An acoustic diaphragm according to claim 5, wherein said metallic diaphragm base member is made of titanium, and wherein there is formed a titanium carbide layer on the surface of said metallic diaphragm base member by emitting a high temperature plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon and hydrocarbon, and there is formed a crystalline diamond film on said titanium carbide layer by emitting a thermal plasma of a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen, whereby said acoustic diaphragm has a three-layered raw material including titanium, titanium carbide and diamond.

7. An acoustic diaphragm comprising a metallic base member made of titanium, tantalum or molybdenum and formed in the shape of diaphragm, and a crystalline diamond film deposited on said metallic diaphragm by thermal-plasma emitting a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen onto the base member, whereby metallic diaphragm base member is dissolved to obtain said diamond film in the shape of diaphragm.

8. An acoustic diaphragm according to claim 7, wherein silicon or titanium is vapor deposited on the surface of said metallic base member to form thereon a diamond film, and thereafter said metallic base member is dissolved.

9. A method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm made of only a diamond film by forming said diamond film on the surface of a metallic base member formed in the shape of diaphragm, and thereafter by dissolving said metallic base member, comprising the steps of:

depositing a crystalline diamond film on said metallic base member made of titanium or molybdenum and formed in the shape of diaphragm, by thermal-plasma emitting a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen onto the base member; and dissolving said metallic base member.

10. A method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm according to claim 9, wherein silicon or titanium carbide is vapor deposited on the surface of said metallic base member to form thereon a diamond film, and thereafter said metallic base member is dissolved.

11. A method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm by forming a crystalline diamond film on a diaphragm base member by the thermal-plasma emitting the mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen onto the base member, comprising the steps of:

Filling ceramic powders between said diaphragm base member and a heat radiator on which said diaphragm base member is mounted; and cooling said diaphragm base member by water-cooling said heat radiator.

12. A method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm according to claim 11, wherein said ceramic powders to be filled are ceramics made of diamond, cubic boron nitride and silicon carbide.

13. A method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm by forming a crystalline diamond film on a diaphragm base member by thermal-plasma emitting a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen onto the base member, comprising the steps of:

mounting said diaphragm base member on a heat radiator having a mount portion formed in the shape corresponding to said diaphragm base member; and

cooling said diaphragm base member by water-cooling said heat radiator.

14. A method of manufacturing an acoustic diaphragm according to claim 13, wherein diamond, cubic boron nitride and silicon carbide are vapor deposited on the surface of said mount portion of said heat radiator to form thereon a ceramic film for further enhancing the cooling effect of said diaphragm base member.

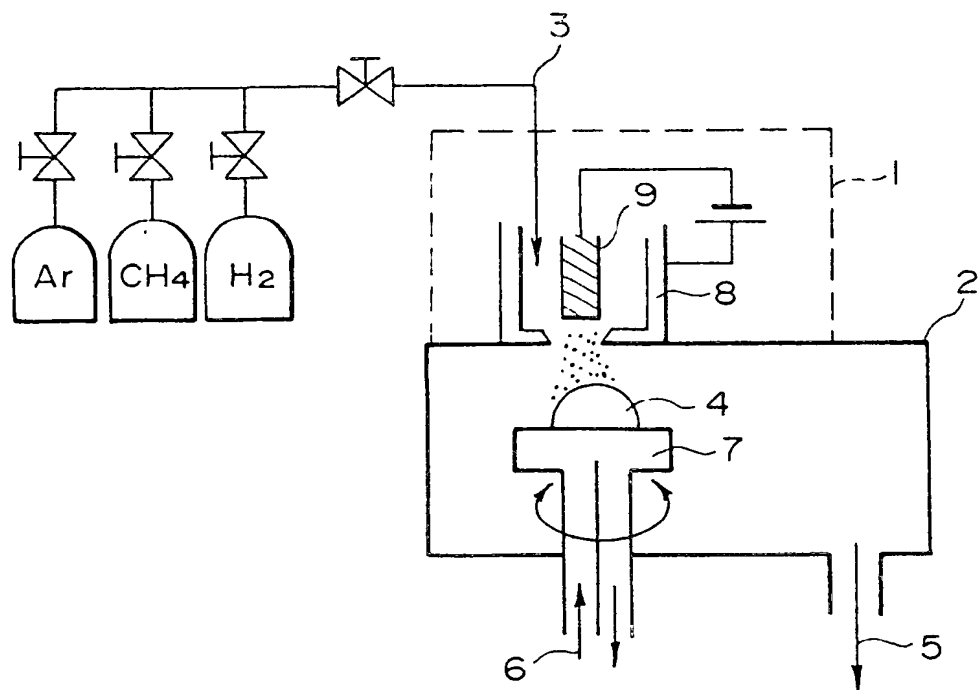


FIG. 1

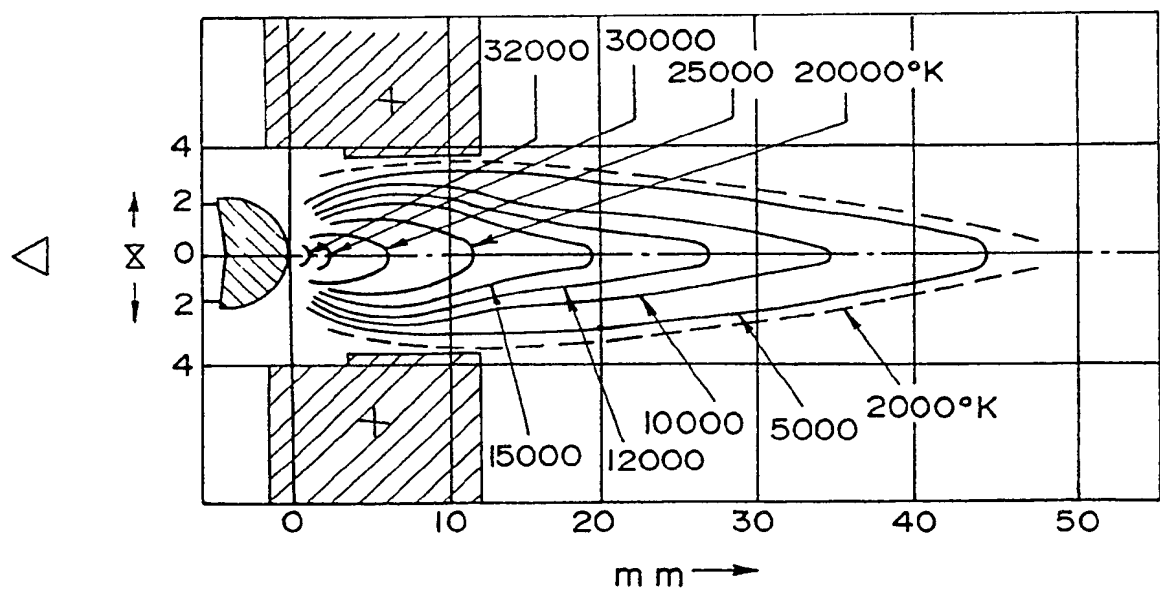


FIG. 2

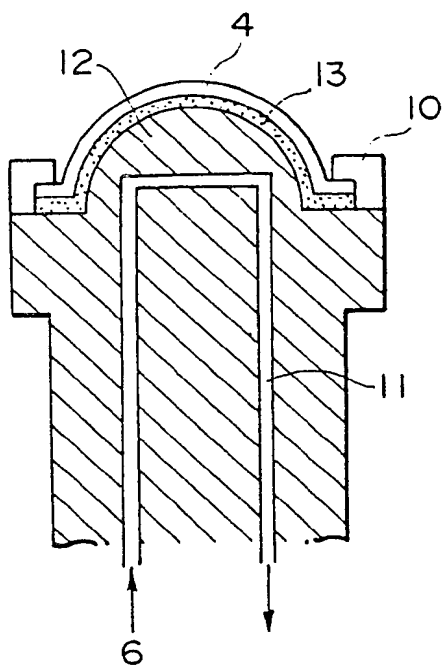


FIG. 3A

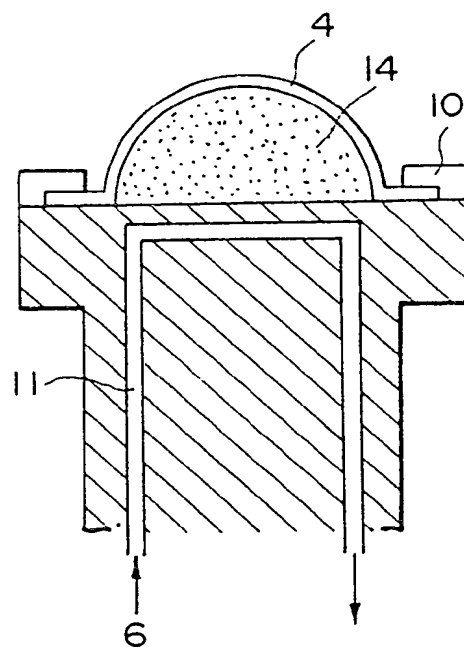


FIG. 3B

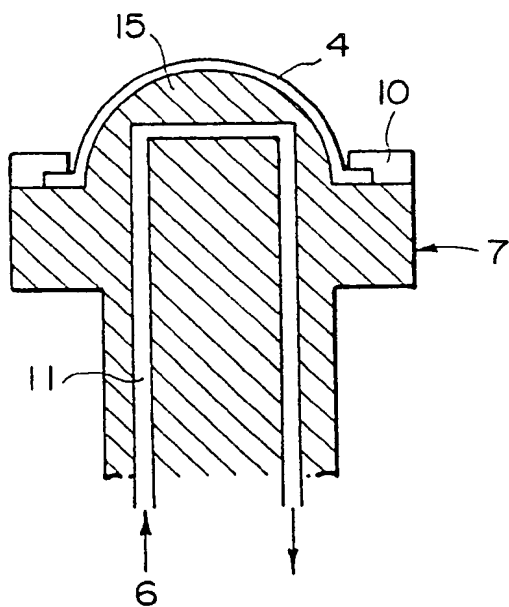


FIG. 4A

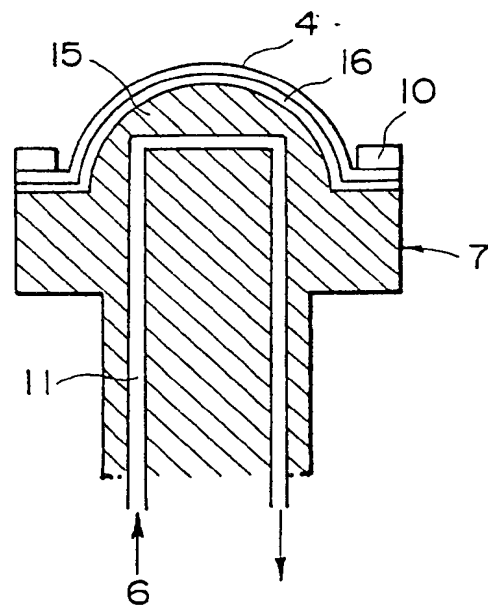


FIG. 4B

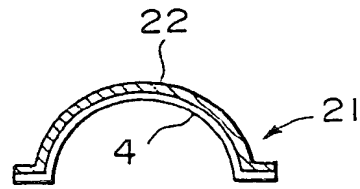


FIG. 5A

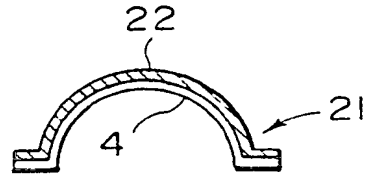


FIG. 5B

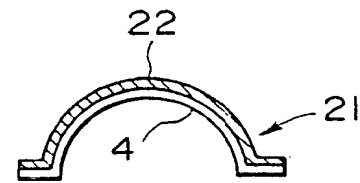


FIG. 5C

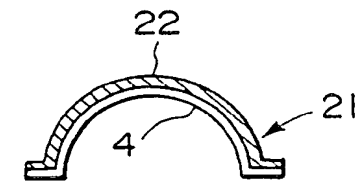


FIG. 6A

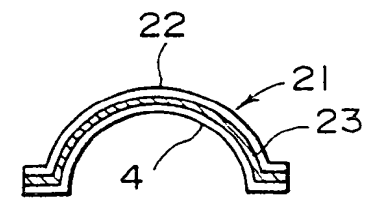


FIG. 6B

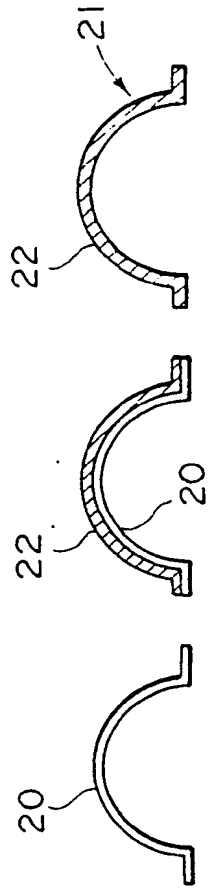


FIG. 7A

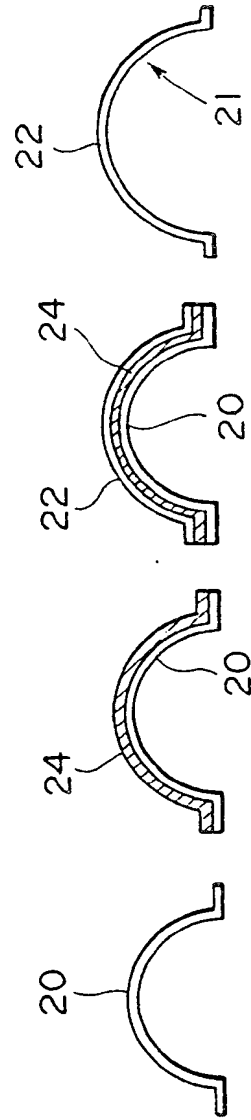


FIG. 7B

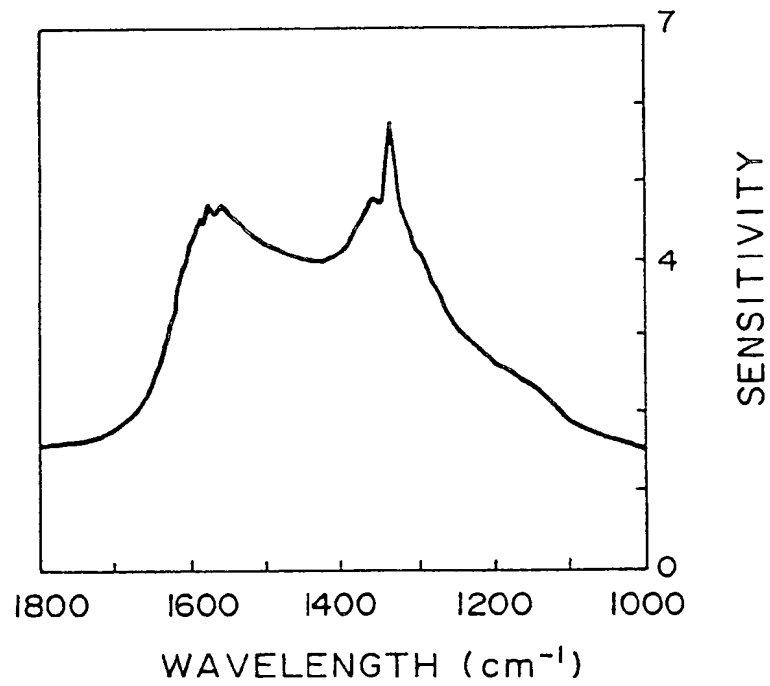


FIG. 8

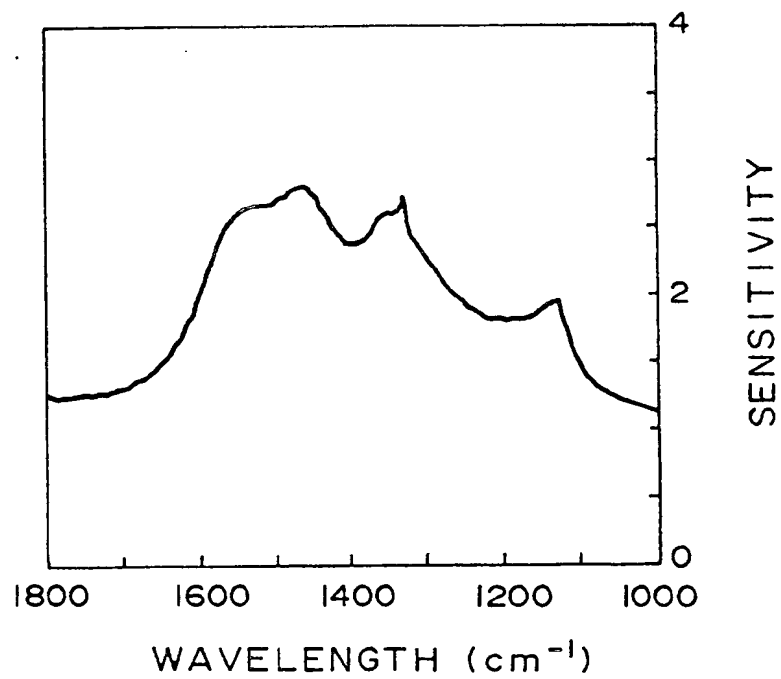


FIG. 9

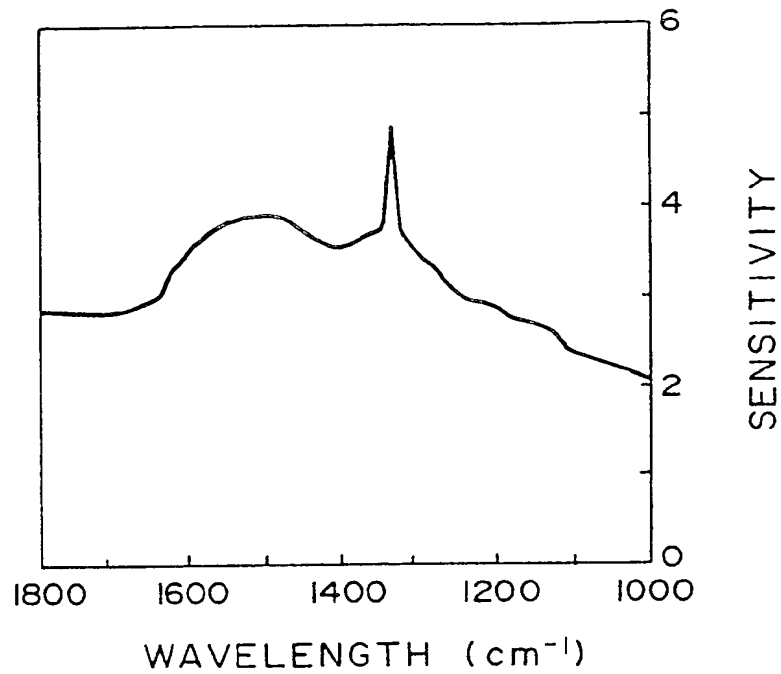


FIG. 10A

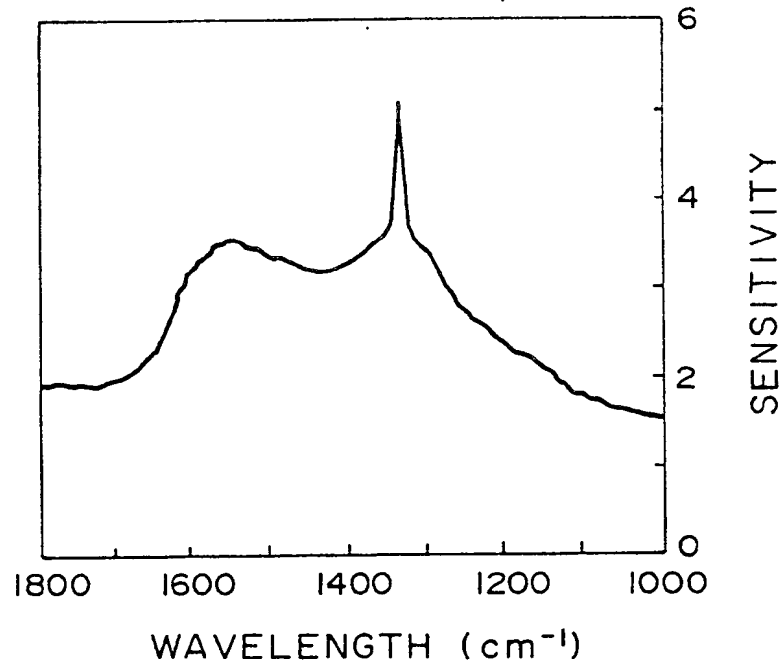


FIG. 10B

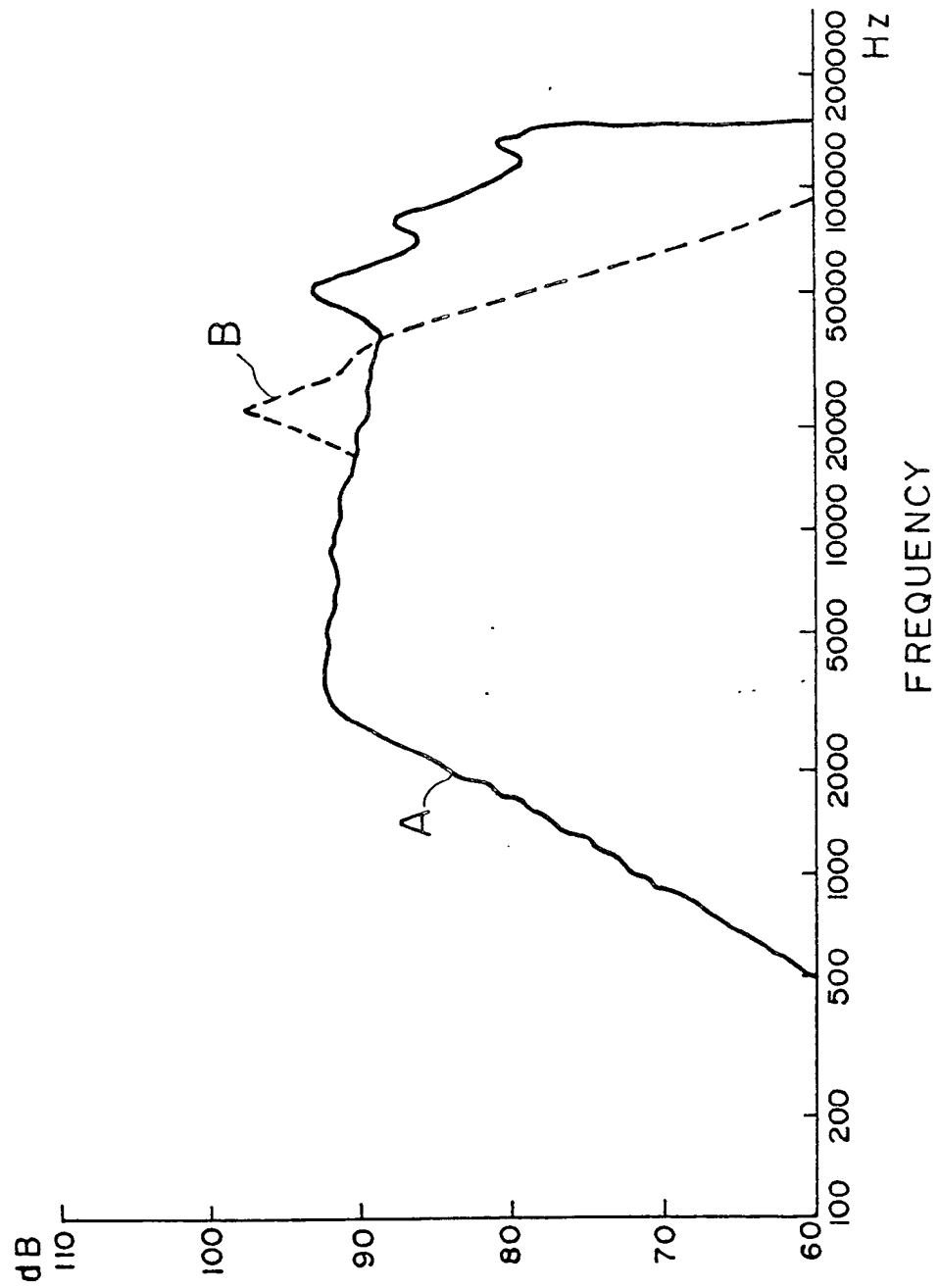


FIG. II

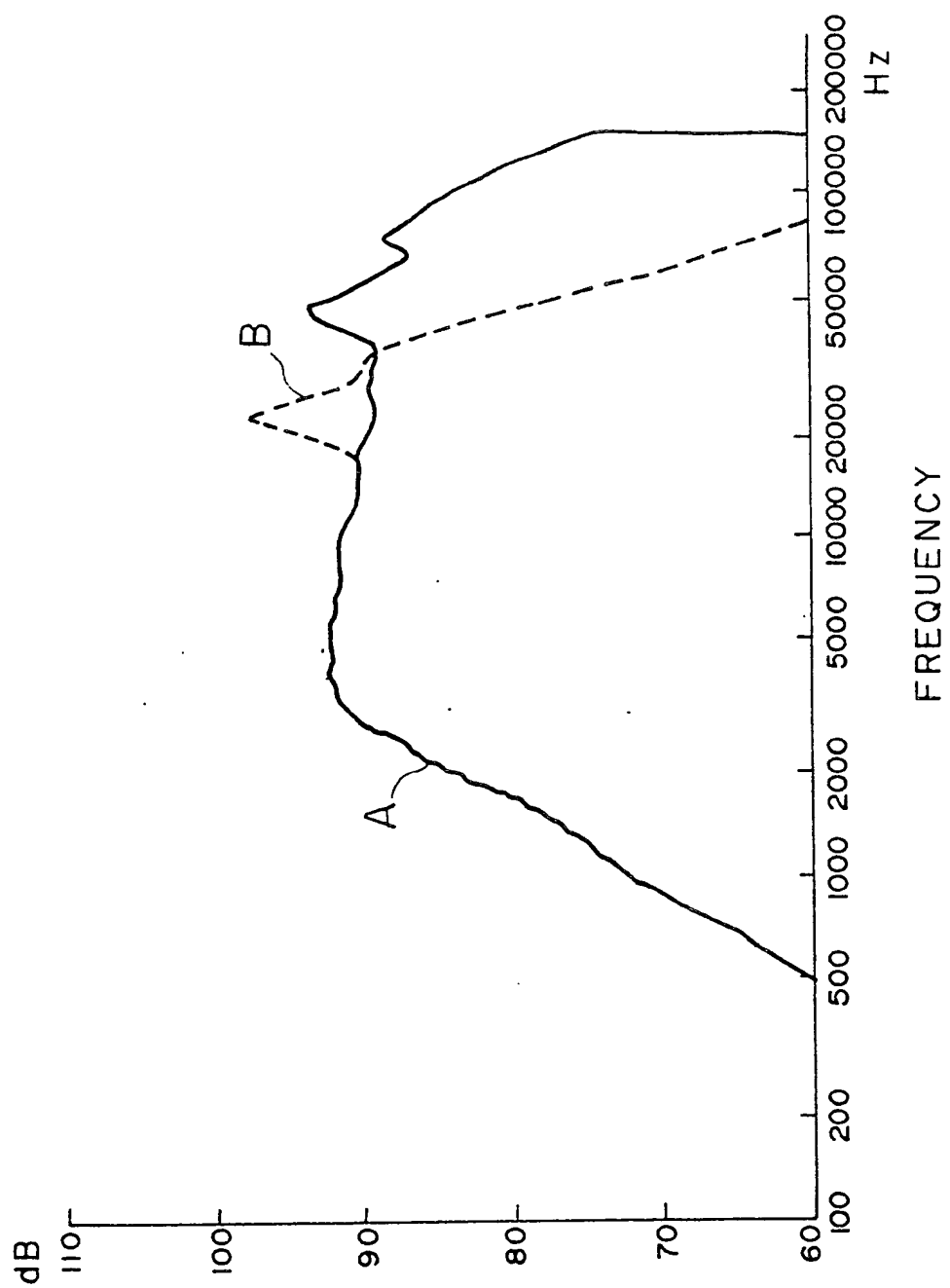


FIG. 12

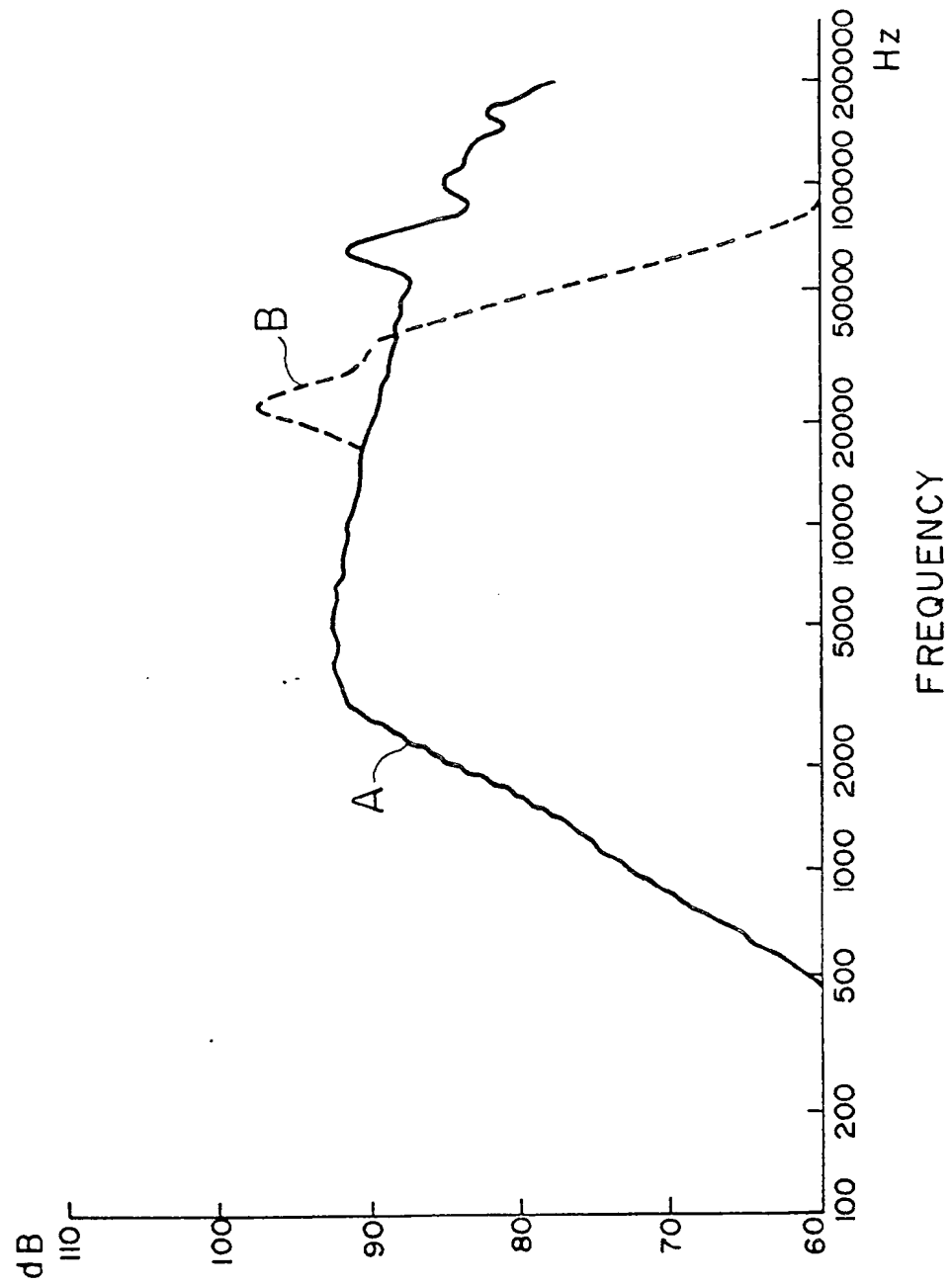
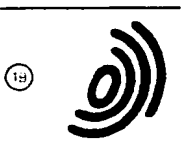


FIG. 13



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54 **Acoustic diaphragm and method of manufacturing the same.**

57 An acoustic diaphragm is made of a crystalline diamond film formed on at least one side of a ceramic diaphragm base member formed in the shape of diaphragm, the crystalline diamond film being formed by thermal-plasma emitting a mixture gas composed of argon, hydrocarbon and hydrogen onto the base member.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-4 344 503 (NAKAMURA ET AL.) * column 1, line 7 - line 11 * * column 2, line 37 - column 3, line 27 * * column 4, line 35 - line 41 @ column 5. line 12 -column 6, line 2 *	1-14	H 04 R 7/02 H 04 R 31/00
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 6, no. 72 (E-105)(950) May 7, 1982 & JP-A-57 11 598 (SONY) January 21, 1982 * the whole document *	1-11,13, 14	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 9, no. 263 (E-351)(1986) March 19, 1985 & JP-A-60 109 998 (MITSUBISHI) June 15, 1985 * the whole document *	1,5,7,9, 11,13	
D,A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 10, no. 319 (E-450)(2375) March 30, 1986 & JP-A-61 128 700 (SHOWA DENKO) June 16, 1986 * the whole document *	1,5,7,9, 11,13	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H 04 R
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		20 September 91	ZANTI P.V.L.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			